

Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of claims

1. (currently amended) A method of gravel packing a hole in a subterranean formation including the step of analyzing a brine-in-oil emulsion forming emulsifier by gel permeation chromatography and selecting the emulsifier based on the criteria that the emulsifier is a sorbitan fatty acid ester presenting a shoulder peak before the peak depicted to be the monomer peak in said analysis, and pumping into the hole a gravel pack composition consisting essentially of gravel and a brine-in-oil emulsion carrier fluid, wherein the brine-in-oil emulsion is stabilized by the selected a brine-in-oil emulsion-forming emulsifier, the selection of the emulsifier based on the criteria that the emulsifier is a sorbitan fatty acid ester presenting a shoulder peak before the peak depicted to be the monomer peak when analyzed by gel permeation chromatography, and wherein stability of the brine-in-oil emulsion is proportional to the height of the shoulder peak relative to the monomer peak.
2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the sorbitan fatty acid ester includes sorbitan monooleate ~~and sorbitan trioleate~~.
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the ratio of the peak height of the shoulder peak before the peak depicted to be the monomer peak to the peak height of the peak depicted to be the monomer peak is greater than 0.5.
4. (original)The method of claim 1, wherein the brine phase is about 50-80% by volume of the carrier fluid.
5. (original)The method of claim 1, wherein the aqueous phase of the carrier fluid further comprises a chelating agent.
6. (original)The method of claim 5, wherein the chelating agent is selected from the group consisting of di-cationic salts of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), cyclohexylene dinitrilo tetraacetic acid (CDTA), [Ethylenebis(oxyethylenenitrilo)]tetraacetic acid (EGTA) and [(Carboxymethyl)imino]-bis(ethylenenitrilo)]-tetra-acetic acid,

hydroxyethylethylenediaminetriacetic acid (HEDTA) and
Hydroxyethyliminodiacetic acid (HEIDA).

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the brine-in-oil emulsion comprises an aqueous phase, the aqueous phase being solids-free.
8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the brine-in-oil emulsion comprises an aqueous phase, the aqueous phase comprising a pH-modifier and a dissolver.
9. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein the emulsifier comprises a mixture of sorbitan fatty acid esters.
10. (new) The method of claim 2 wherein the emulsifier comprises a mixture of sorbitan fatty acid esters.